

IN THE DRAWINGS

The attached sheets of drawings include changes to Figs. 17 and 20. These sheets, which include Figs. 17 and 20, replace the original sheets including Figs. 17 and 20.

Attachment: Replacement Sheets

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Favorable consideration of this application is respectfully requested.

Claims 64-68 are pending in this application. Claim 1-63 have been canceled without prejudice or disclaimer. New Claims 64-68 have been added to clarify the invention and new Claims 64-68 find support in Figures 1-3, 11-13, and 15-17 and their description in the specification, for example. Accordingly, the changes to the claims do not introduce any new matter.

The outstanding Official Action objected to Claim 23 and the drawings and presented a rejection of Claims 1-47 under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as being anticipated by Thackston (U.S. Patent No. 6,295,513).

The objection to Claim 23 is believed to be moot as this claim has been canceled.

The objection to the drawings is believed to be overcome by the submission herewith of the attached replacement sheets of drawings that include changes to Figs. 17 and 20 and by the changes made by this Amendment to the specification. Accordingly, withdrawal of the objection to the drawing is respectfully requested.

Before addressing the outstanding rejection based on Thackston, it is believed that a brief review of the present invention would be helpful. In this respect, the present invention involves manufacture of a product based on particular specifications (specs), including items of admission criterion such as the price and the performance of the product and the manufacturers of the components of the product that conform to these specs. When the manufacture of these components produces components conforming to these specs, the manufacture of the product can then employ these components to produce the manufactured product. Thus, the present invention provides an improved system having a virtual collaborative environment for selecting fabricators for design, development, and assembly of the product being manufactured.

On the other hand, Thackston does not teach or suggest anything about admission criterion that is unique to a company and being set based on “one of admission guideline information, quality/price information regarding a component to be provided, request information from a design section and/or a manufacture section, and component trend information from a manufacturer, all regarding a product-manufacturing component” as recited, *inter alia*, by base independent Claim 64.

It should be noted in this regard that the qualification in Thackston is merely a qualification that is executed based on a certification, etc. of an engineer, and for selecting a fabricator.

Accordingly, it is clear that Thackston cannot be reasonably said to anticipate or render obvious the subject matter of base independent Claim 64.

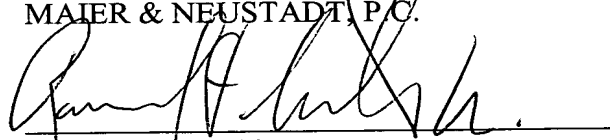
Moreover, as new Claims 65-68 all depend from new Claim 64 and include all the subject matter thereof, it is respectfully submitted that these new claims patentably define over Thackston for at least the same reasons that new Claim 64 does.

In addition, as new Claims 65-68 all introduce further features not taught or suggested by Thackston, these claims are respectfully submitted to patentably define over Thackston for this reason as well.

Accordingly, it is respectfully submitted that no further issues remain outstanding in the present application, and that this application is clearly in condition for formal allowance and an early and favorable action to that effect is, therefore, respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,

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